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Thos. R. Walker

Adms. Fudge

1868

For

General Good Conduct

and

Progress

in

Reading & Penmanship

From

His Affect. Teacher

Dec. 21st 1868

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LIFE

OF

SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON.

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Beale & Co Edin^g

"Mr. Fitzwarren who was a benevolent gentleman came up to the door at this moment" &c.

THE LIFE OF DICK WHITTINGTON



"Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London"

HALIFAX.
MILNER & SOWERBY.

THE LIFE
OF
SIR RICHD. WHITTINGTON,
KNIGHT,
FOUR TIMES LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

COMPILED FROM

AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

FOR THE

AMUSEMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND EMULATION
OF THE RISING GENERATION.

“Examples teach where precept fails,
And sermons are less read than tales.”

HALIFAX :
MILNER AND SOWERBY.

1865.

LIFE OF SIR R. WHITTINGTON.



THE pen of the biographer can add nothing to the splendour which encircles a virtuous name. He who, greatly aspiring, displays evidence of a superior soul, and ennobles himself by distinguished actions, is the achiever of his own immortality. Such a character is valuable amongst society, and it is the duty of literature to hand it down to posterity, that future generations may be led to imitate those traits which they cannot fail to admire.

The faculties of the body were not given to man to cramp and decay for want of exertion; the energies of the mind, the principles of perception, judgment and discrimination, were not idly bestowed, nor intended to lie inert, fettered by indolence. Wealth and fame are the rich meeds of industrious talent; but the way to them is steep, and difficult, and is only accessible by a perseverance in toil. In-

dustry, however, carries with it a reward which indolence can never learn to appreciate. It imparts new health to the body, and new vigour to the mind, banishes the diseases of imagination, destroys epicurean wantonness of taste, sweetens repose, and adds delectability to enjoyment. Rolling in affluence, the produce of another's exertions, the idle man may purchase attention and command obedience from his dependants; but esteem and respect are voluntary tributes from the world to him that his industrious, and these are gifts which exclusively belong to merit.

The book of man affords a thousand various lessons, each of which abounds with some salutary moral, and few individuals are enabled to make much progress in life, until they have repeatedly studied its pages, and applied its maxims. The philosophers of Greece and Rome, names which must for ever be dear to morality and virtue, inculcated upon the minds of their kindred youth, that "the knowledge of themselves was the most important feature of wisdom; and the greatest writers of the modern school

have perpetuated this sentiment, by asserting that "the proper study of mankind is man."

A very slight proficiency in this knowledge will convince us that the course of indolence is doubtful and full of misery, and that its end is unpitied; while, on the other hand, industry creates for itself friends and pleasures without number: and, although its prosperity, controlled by the same uncertainty that governs all human affairs, must necessarily undergo frequent fluctuations, yet does it ultimately rise above the difficulties it encounters, and never fails of its recompence. Thousands of contemporary examples might easily be adduced in confirmation of this position, but they are continually before the eye of the observer, and a splendid instance extracted from the mouldering records of past times, and adapted to the taste and disposition of our own age, may effect a more durable impression, while it cannot flatter living pride, nor afford ground to dispute the motives which produced it.

The name of WHITTINGTON is familiar to all ears. His life, arrayed in childish

language, and ornamented by the extravagancies of fiction, in order to make it more palatable to juvenile minds, has been rendered by custom, an indispensable appendage to the nursery; while, on the other hand, the most conspicuous of his actions adorn the archives of the first metropolis of the world, and the noble structures, founded by his munificence, stand as monumental recorders, of his worth, and for the wisdom and merits of their founder, silently point to the benefits resulting from their foundation.

The career of this celebrated character abounds with such strong illustrations of the power of industry; it yields such unequivocal testimonies of this truth, that fortune is to be won by perseverance, and affords such a striking and pleasing contrast to the events which mark a life of indolence, that the effort to present it to the world in a more dignified and suitable form, than that which it has been accustomed to wear, will not be censured by the liberal part of the community. Subjects of inferior merit, teeming with much less important benefits to society, are daily ushered into the world by the most

pompous adulation, and the encouragement which follows these annunciations is amply sufficient to inflate to the utmost the vanity of those who thus assume the right to cater for the public taste, and to anticipate the public opinion.

As bright exemplars to their posterity, the actions of great men cannot be too frequently held up to view. They operate upon all in a greater or less degree, as incitements to industrious exertions, and as seasonable antidotes to indolence and imprudence. The maxims of experience, and the lessons of theoretical wisdom, are rendered doubly efficacious when they are blended with, and illustrated by, living testimonies; and the details of a life which, by application and prudence, has raised its possessor to distinction, although it is accompanied by no moral, except that which it carries upon its face, will render more essential service to society, than a thousand precepts however forcible and excellent, unaccompanied by example.

The truth of this remark will be confirmed strongly in the subsequent pages; for however ably it might have been in-

sisted that attention, exertion, and prudence combined, would be sufficient to surmount all the obstacles which ignorance and obscurity could oppose to the successful progress of an individual, there would have been found thousands of sceptical readers whom no unsupported facts would have convinced of the rationality of the argument. But the rise of Sir Richard Whittington from the lowest situation of life, to the highest civic distinction, his first extrication from the trammels of obscurity and dependence, and his subsequent progress to celebrity, offer a lesson which cannot be surpassed in its nature, which must at once convince the incredulous, and confound the caviller. His elevation was brought about by no fortuitous circumstances of an extraordinary description, he enjoyed no singular portion of the smiles of fortune; the most happy occurrences of his life, sprung from his own efforts and were the reasonable rewards of his discretion. By no sudden transition was his career marked, if we except the adventure of his cat which has been greatly magnified; he ascended, step by step, the ladder of fame,

never quitted his hold, nor suffering himself to be daunted, by the appearance of an obstacle, however appalling or extensive. To a perseverance thus resolute, and a mind thus invincible to difficulty, success was certain; INTEGRITY was his talisman, and the wand with which he removed mountains was INDUSTRY.

Characters and events over which the lapse of centuries have shed an obscuring mist, lie in such confusion, that the task of extricating them from oblivion teems with difficulties of the most serious complexion. The invention of printing, it is true, has rendered subsequent circumstances more distinct, and has produced abundant materials for the private as well as the public historian. The birth of Whittington, however, is to be placed amongst the occurrences of the century which preceded this memorable era, and to this the obscurity which involves the biography of such a remarkable character is entirely to be attributed; as well as the many extravagant and unfounded traditions which have been attached to his name.

From the most credible sources it has

been ascertained that this truly great man was born at Ellesmere, in Shropshire, about the year 1354, and that his parents, being unable by their utmost exertions, to bear up against the stream of adversity which assailed them, were induced to smother the feelings of nature, and to consent to the ardent desire of Richard to proceed to London, with a view to obtain some employment, by which he might procure a more certain subsistence. The imagination of the young adventurer had been previously heated by the highly finished descriptions of the wealth and grandeur of the metropolis which he had received from those with whom he had associated; and he had formed the natural but erroneous conclusions that if he could once reach this source of opulence, his wants and his miseries would terminate together. Their remoteness from London, and the bounded knowledge of the world to which their obscure situation had confined them, prevented his parents from imposing a timely check upon these vague and visionary expectations; and their silent concurrence in his lavish praises of the great empori-

um of trade, tended to confirm him in error, and to feed his youthful ardour.

At the age of fourteen, therefore, he took his leave of the seat of his nativity, and set forward on his toilsome journey. Being without the means of obtaining even the common necessities of life, he was compelled to solicit relief in the different towns and villages through which he passed, and as his appeals were not vainly made, he was thus enabled to reach the place of his destination. A new scene here burst upon his sight, and filled him with strange wonder, for he had never been accustomed to behold such a continued chain of buildings, such bustle, and such a countless number of fellow creatures passing and repassing with mechanical regularity. Amidst this strange commotion, however, as soon as he began to reflect upon the nature of his own situation, he found himself a stranger, without the means of support, ignorant what step to take, or which way to direct his steps.

The latter part of his journey had, fortunately, been relieved by the humanity of a carrier, who had taken compassion

upon his youth, and had given him a ride to the metropolis; and this worthy man proved, in the sequel, of still more essential service to Richard; for when he saw the confusion and distress of the boy, on being set down at the entrance into the city, he was induced to inquire something more particularly into his circumstances and expectations. The young wanderer opened to him his precise situation, and immediately won over to him the worthy man, who took him to the inn where he stopped, and having kept him there the next night, went with him on the following morning to an acquaintance, by whose good offices Richard was admitted into the hospital of St. John's, Clerkenwell, to assist in some of the menial duties of the house. The youth, being naturally of a very grateful disposition, exerted himself to the utmost to do credit to his friend's recommendation, and so well did he succeed that he soon became a universal favourite, and received frequent rewards for his willingness and goodness of temper.

The prior of this hospital had noticed Richard, and was induced to ask some

questions concerning him, which, being answered much to his satisfaction, led him to enter into conversation with the boy respecting his friends, and his motives for coming up to London at such an early age. Without an equivocation, the boy replied to these interrogatories to the content of the prior, who resolved to second his views by procuring admission for him into the family of some citizen, where he might be employed to more advantage to himself, than he could in his present situation. This intention he communicated to Richard, whose hopes, which had been somewhat depressed by his unpropitious outset, now began once more to rally, and to anticipate a life of more promise than at present he enjoyed.

In the mean time, true to his promise, the worthy prior set himself about the promotion of Richard's projects, and, in a very few days, he imparted to the youth the grateful tidings, that an application he made on his behalf to a respectable merchant with whom he was upon terms of intimacy, had been attended with the most complete success, and that he was forthwith to consider himself as one of

Mr. Fitzwarren's family, to whose house in the neighbourhood of Tower-hill, the happy boy was directed immediately to repair. He was not backward in obeying this order, and, in a few hours, he found himself placed in a new family, where for some time, his prospects appeared to be no brighter than when he lived in the hospital: he was expected to toil without any promise of reward, except his maintenance: there were also two unpleasant circumstances to which it became necessary for him to reconcile himself in his new situation, and these were—the excessive and continual tyranny of the cook, under whom he was unhappily placed, and the nightly plague of an incredible swarm of rats and mice which infested the place where he was permitted to sleep.

This double pest confounded Richard in no small degree. He had fed his imagination with the hope that the change of masters would produce him more comforts of every description, and he could not very easily witness the disappointment he was doomed to experience. The oppressive behaviour of the cook was in-

deed almost too much to be borne, and, exercised upon a less patient disposition than that of Richard, would have probably awakened a continual spirit of discord. Not contented with branding him, hourly, with the most gross and insulting epithets, she would frequently have recourse to measures of still greater violence, and would vent her rage upon him in a manner more forcible than language could convey. The passive nature of the youth, however, was proof against all her attempts to irritate it, and he became at length totally callous to her menaces and blows, and consoled himself with the hope that he should not for ever be compelled to live with such an unfeeling tormentor. The other servants, following the example of the cook, used to amuse themselves with ridiculing the poor, friendless youth, but he became, after a short time, perfectly resigned to his fate, in this particular.

But Richard was more puzzled how to get rid of his nightly associates, than by any other occurrence of his life. The vermin, emboldened by uninterrupted

success in their incursions, became more daring continually, and so far from quitting their abode on the arrival of the youth, they seemed to league together for the purpose of expelling him. They would run over his bed, and annoy him so excessively that the repose of his nights was broken and unrefreshing, and his whole thoughts were occupied in the contrivance of some method of procuring a cat to guard his slumbers.

A very few weeks had elapsed when Whittington was enabled to carry his wishes into effect. A merchant, who had passed the day with Mr. Fitzwarren, was prevented from returning home that evening, in consequence of the setting in of some heavy rains. A bed in the house was accordingly prepared for him, and the task of cleaning the visitor's shoes devolved upon Richard, for the execution of which he received a trifling gratuity, which he instantly determined to apply to the purchase of a cat. On the very same day, the opportunity was afforded him ; for, as he was out, on some business for the cook, he perceived a woman with a cat under her arm, which she was ex-

posing for sale. Anxious to obtain such an inestimable treasure, Whittington eagerly demanded the price of the animal, but his spirits rapidly declined on the owner asking a sum nearly thrice as much as he possessed. Just as he was turning away, however, with a full heart, the woman asked him how much he chose to offer: a ray of hope once more shot across the breast of Richard, and he instantly produced his whole stock, adding that he could give no more, for of no more was he possessed. After some hesitation, the owner of the cat acceded to his proposal, and put him in possession of the animal in which his happiness was centered.

Hastening home with his new acquisition, Whittington was for a moment perplexed how to conceal her from the servants, since he was fearful, from the pleasure which they too evidently found in tormenting him, that they might destroy his cat, or turn her out of the house, in order that they might reap new enjoyment from the disappointment which such an action would cause to his hopes and his projects. The recollection of an old cupboard in his bed-room,

which had never been used since his residence in the house, and the dirty appearance of which was a sufficient security against the intrusion of any of the servants, soon relieved him from his embarrassment; and to this place of concealment, he hastened with his cat, and succeeded in depositing her therein unobserved.

With a lightened heart, Whittington went through the drudgery* of the day, for his thoughts were beguiled with the wonderful havoc which his cat would make amongst the enemies of his rest, when she was set at liberty. These reflections completely stole away from him every sense of his unhappy situation, and the cruelty of his fellow servants was no longer remembered. The cook and her companions, on the other hand, were at a loss how to account for this sudden and complete change in Richard's countenance and manners, but they did not give themselves much trouble to find out the cause of the transition, contenting themselves with ridiculing him more and more, in order to banish his contentment.

Evening at length came, and with it the welcome moment when Whittington was freed from the labours of the day, and found himself at liberty to retire to his humble resting-place. His first care was to visit his cat, and to set her at liberty, that she might commence her guard, and she managed matters with such dexterity, that she destroyed all the vermin which ventured to make their appearance, and gave Richard, for the first time since he had come into the family the power to sleep soundly during the night. Such a night of rest was a luxury which the greatest might have envied, and he was sensible of its value, and grateful to his companion, which he restored to the cupboard in the morning. For many nights following, Whittington let his cat loose, and so vigilant was the sagacious animal, that she very soon succeeded in entirely clearing the room of its ancient inhabitants, to the no small gratification of her owner, who, a thousand times applauded himself for having so judiciously laid out his money.

But the moment was now at hand,

when the value of Whittington's cat was to be more truly exemplified, and her utility to her owner more unequivocally illustrated. Mr. Fitzwarren was a merchant of the first connections and opulence, and he had consequently, a considerable number of vessels continually going out and coming in. Now it had been a custom with this worthy master, whenever he dispatched a vessel on a voyage, to give liberty to all his servants, from the highest to the lowest, to make an adventure, by sending out anything they might choose, by way of endeavouring to gain some advantage from it. Of this privilege the domestics never failed to avail themselves; adventuring more or less, according to their circumstances, and the property they possessed.

Very soon after Whittington became possessed of his cat, a vessel was fitted out by Mr. Fitzwarren, and it being on the point of sailing, he summoned his servants to make the accustomed trials of their fortune, and, accordingly, every one except Richard, brought forward such articles as they could spare for that pur-

pose. But poor Whittington, although he felt a most ardent desire to join in the general speculation, possessed nothing but his cat; and when Miss Fitzwarren, missing him from amongst the other servants, ordered him to be called in, he endeavoured, by every excuse he could bring forward, to evade the exposing of himself to new ridicule from those who seized every opportunity to flout him. His equivocations, however, proved of no avail, and he was obliged to come forward, and declare that he had no property in the world except his cat, and to this assertion he added the cause of his purchasing the animal, and the means by which he had been enabled to obtain her. The generosity of his young mistress, however, would have removed the impediment which poverty had thrown in the way of his wishes, had not the merchant, with a tenacity which savoured of superstition, objected to her offer, and declared that as whatever was sent must be the absolute property of the person who sent it, nothing remained to be done but for Whittington to send his cat on board, and see if she would produce him

any return. Richard, notwithstanding his wish to try his fortune was equal to that of any one, could not think of parting with his faithful cat without much pain; and when his master repeated his order for him to bring the animal, he, for the first time since he had been in the house, yielded a reluctant obedience, and, while the tears ran plentifully down his cheeks, delivered her up to the master of the Unicorn, which was then lying at Blackwall, waiting for a fair passage.

No sooner had Whittington parted from his cat, than he began to mourn her loss, for she had been of wonderful service to him both as a companion and a protector from vermin, and when he retired to rest his room appeared solitary and uncomfortable. His grief was very considerably heightened also by the reflection that he had idly thrown the poor creature away, for there was scarcely the shadow of possibility that any good could result from such an adventure. It was true, he was now freed from his old nightly visitors, and therefore could better dispense with her attendance than he

could have done some days before; but, on the other hand, the behaviour of the servants became daily more intolerable, and he had now no consolation when he retired at night, since his cat was gone. Her constant playfulness and affectionate purrings, had formerly tended to rob him of half his sorrows, and sad and plentiful tears would rush into his eyes, when he considered that it was next to an impossibility that ever he should see her playfulness or hear her purrings again. The exposure of his poverty too had produced unpleasant consequences, for the cook, in particular, ever since the adventure of his cat, had behaved with additional tyranny, and scarcely ever ceased to taunt him, on account of his distressed situation.

Although Whittington had so long been subject to these mortifications, he had hitherto reconciled himself to them, and had never once breathed a complaint to any one. All his sighs and sorrows were spent in secret, and he indulged continual hopes that either death or some less fatal circumstance would remove his tormentor from him, and thus leave him

at peace. But soon after the loss of his cat, the insults he received had increased to such a degree that he at length came to a determination rather to leave his master's house, and once more to trust himself to the uncertain bounty of the world, than to drag on such a miserable existence, as that which he was now compelled to endure. In the contemplation of his present troubles, he had completely lost sight of the difficulties which involved him at his first adventure into life, and nothing was now present to his mind, but the best method of escaping from his enemy, the cook. Every hour seemed to add strength to his determination, and some subsequent menaces which the tyrannous female uttered, completely rivetted his purpose, and determined him to lose no unnecessary time in carrying his new project into effect.

On the morning fixed upon for his flight, which was that of Allhallows, he arose early, intending to bid adieu to London, and, in the more peaceful scenes of rural life, to seek for a situation where he might at least lead a quiet life. He had not, however, proceeded more than a

mile from his master's house, before the view of the numberless streets before him, and the picture which his fancy drew of long tracts of ground, mountains, valleys, woods, and moors, over which he must traverse, pennyless and unknown, staggered him for a moment, and compelled him to pause, and look back to the comfortable mansion which he had quitted, where there was a plentiful board, and into which want had never entered. The image of the spiteful cook would then arise to revive his resolution, but his heart failed him, and with a faltering step and downcast look, he paced slowly forwards, solitary and sad, until he had passed through Holloway, and reached the foot of Highgate Hill, where he once more made a stand, and then seating himself upon a stone,* began to ponder upon his fate. The comforts of his late situation, as well as its unpleasantness; master, mistress, cook, servants and even the cat arose to his fancy, and as they pre-

* This stone remains standing to this day, at the foot of Highgate Hill, close by the path-way, and upon it is cut in characters still distinct—
WHITTINGTON'S STONE."

ponderated, gave a turn to his resolutions accordingly.

In the midst of his meditations, however, the chain of his thoughts was suddenly broken by faint peals which as the breeze favoured or opposed, came full or indistinctly on his ear. As he listened to catch the harmonies, he distinguished the sound of Bow-bells, which gradually became more intelligible to his ear, and rivetted his attention, Losing sight of his troubles, as he listened to catch the strain, he began to hum after each of the bells, until at last fancy so far gained the ascendancy over every other faculty, that he imagined he could trace distinct words in the sounds, and, ultimately, so far was he carried away by the delusion that he actually convinced himself that the bells, controlled by some præternatural agency, were in truth recalling him to his master in the following words.

“Return again Whittington,
Thrice Lord Mayor of London.”

The effect was instantaneous on the resolution of Whittington, who, wavering as he was before he heard the bells, im-

mediately gave up the idea of proceeding into the country, and as it was yet early in the morning, he set out on his return homewards, with the utmost expedition, and luckily got in, and commenced his usual daily labour, without any one having entertained the slightest suspicion of his morning adventure.

While these things were transacting at home, the Unicorn, with Whittington's cat on board, proceeded on her destination, and, after a prosperous voyage, arrived in the mole of Algiers. The coast of Africa had been for some years scourged by a destructive pestilence, which had passed into the barbarous regions of Scandinavia, desolating all the countries over which it shed its influence; and when the ship came to an anchor in the mole, the fury of the plague was yet unsubdued. This circumstance, however, did not prevent the captain from endeavouring to open a traffic with the inhabitants, but the attempt, at its outset, carried with it a very faint promise of ultimate success. Perseverance, assisted by some rich presents to the Dey, at length effected a relaxation of that reserve which at first

displayed itself; the shyness which had appeared on one side began progressively to melt into a warmth of friendship corresponding with the manners of the other; and a degree of reciprocal confidence and good understanding being established, advantage was immediately taken of this friendly disposition to commence trade.

The captain, being a man of much general knowledge, well versed in the art of commerce, and in the manners and customs of other countries; and being withal one in whom great trust could be reposed, pushed his mercantile business with such indefatigable zeal that he soon contrived to dispose of his cargo to great advantage, with the exception of Whittington's cat, which indeed, was by no one regarded as a marketable commodity. But the hour was now drawing near which was to prove the real value of this animal; for when the transactions of commerce were terminated, the Dey to evince his satisfaction at the conduct of the adventurers, gave a splendid entertainment to the captain and his officers, which was served up on carpets, in all the magnificence of African splendour. The choicest produce

of the mines of the country, and every estimable jewel which enriched the royal treasury, were put in requisition, on this occasion, to render the banquet unprecedentedly superb. But alas! the inefficacy of all these costly ornaments to secure a comfortable repast was soon rendered conspicuous, for no sooner were the various delicacies placed on the table, than allured by the inviting odours which emanated from numerous dishes, a prodigious quantity of rats and mice rushed upon the carpets, and, regardless of the company, mauled or defiled the greater part of the luxuries, before they could be driven back to their retreats.

The singularity of this spectacle naturally induced the English guests to be very inquisitive respecting the numbers of these rapacious animals that infested the palace, and the extent of the mischiefs they must occasion, while thus suffered to pillage with impunity. But their surprise was greatly augmented when they were given to understand not only that there was no remedy discovered in this country for the destruction of these vermin, but also that they were in such abundance

that the Dey was compelled to share his bed as well as his meals with them. No price, it was added, would be thought too exorbitant, no reward too munificent, for the person to receive who should at any time render to the Dey the important service of expelling from his residence these officious, impertinent, and disgusting visitors. The Algerines also displayed no inconsiderable symptoms of fear when the animals made their appearance, and it was generally believed that they would one day arrive at such a height, unless a check could be discovered, as to lay them under serious apprehensions respecting the fate of the people. The Dey was constantly guarded by night, lest he should be destroyed by these enemies.

The English captain, in answer to these remarks, expressed his conviction that he had on board his vessel a certain remedy for this evil, and offered if the Dey would order a similar banquet to be prepared on the following day, to bring forward an unfailing defence against the attacks of these troublesome animals. His Majesty, elevated at the idea that he might get rid of his enemies, by this method, in-

stantly acceded to the captain's request, and they parted, the Englishman not less elated at the prospect of making something advantageous of Whittington's cat, than the Dey was in the expectation of the promised remedy.

At the time appointed, the captain and his officers returned to the palace, bringing with them the cat, and the carpets having been spread as on the day preceding, the voracious animals rushed in as before as soon as the dishes were ranged. But the cat no sooner perceived the officious visitors, than at a single leap she sprang from the arms of the captain into the midst of them, and in a few seconds, the whole of the vermin were either killed or had found security in flight. The wonder of the Algerines was only equalled by their gratitude; they expressed their delight in the most vociferous manner; and were with difficulty restrained from destroying the cat, in their eagerness to recompense her for her exertions. The Dey's delight was as noisy as that of any of his officers, and he expressed his determination to retain so valuable an acquisition at any price. The captain, however, considered it politic to

display a very considerable reluctance to part with the cat, which was only banished by the liberal offers of the enraptured Dey, who, on no account whatever, could be induced to relinquish her. He loaded the captain with presents, sent on board a valuable assortment of the choicest commodities, consisting of gold, jewels and silks, and behaved with such attention and liberality to every person belonging to the ship, that they had ample cause to rejoice at the good fortune which had pitched upon them to bring over such an inestimable article of commerce.

Having now completed the objects of her voyage, the Unicorn once again weighed anchor, and aided by prosperous gales, soon reached her native shore. It was one evening, the second after Whittington's return from his intended flight, when he had just been compelled to endure a stronger and longer string of invectives than usual from his old enemy, the cook, that he seated himself in a corner of the kitchen, and, lamenting his unhappy condition, called to mind the days which he had witnessed in his native county, before his excursion to London. The retrospect

was a subject of deep regret to him; since on contrasting his present with his former condition, he found the balance preponderate in favour of the latter, and had just breathed a sincere wish that he was once more in his father's humble residence at Ellesmere, when the cook came up to him, and chiding him for an indolent, good-for-nothing, sulky dog, ordered him to go into the parlour, after he had washed himself clean, as his master had sent to require his presence immediately.

Poor Whittington, dejected and broken-hearted, arose from his seat, with downcast eyes, and heaving breast, and reluctantly began to obey the cook's orders. But when he had rendered himself decent, and entered the parlour, where his master was conversing with a stranger, what was his surprise on being accosted in terms of familiarity which were entirely new to his ear, and being also requested to take a chair. With no very unembarrassed air the youth attempted to comply with the request, but he was totally at a loss how to account for this strange alteration in his master's manners. His suspense was

of no long duration. Mr. Fitzwarren perceived in his countenance symptoms of the emotions which raged in his bosom, and quickly opened to him the business respecting which herequired his presence. The stranger who was present was no other than the agent who had come to London to bring information of the result of the voyage, and, in the presence of the grateful and astonished Whittington he recounted the adventure of the cat at the Algerine court, and the great recompense which the Dey had given for the possession of such an inestimable animal. The other servants also had made considerable advantages, but Richard's share of the cargo was so considerable and withal so productive, as to raise him at once from the situation of a menial servant to the rank and character of a gentleman. Mr. Fitzwarren felt scarcely less pleasure at the transition than Whittington himself, and immediately treated him with the familiarity of an equal. The cook, as if anxious to expunge from his memory her past misconduct towards him, was now the very foremost to congratulate him,

and to anticipate even his most trifling wishes; and the other servants seemed to vie with each other in their respectful conduct towards him. Such was the change of behaviour which this sudden change of circumstances produced in a few short hours, affording too plain demonstration that prosperity is the certain key to the reverence of the world, while adversity is uniformly despised and trampled upon.

This, however, was the precise moment to prove the nature of Whittington's disposition. The real temper of his mind could not have been tried by a more infallible criterion. In adversity he had displayed a constancy of patience under ill-usage which had given him strong claims upon the good opinion of the discerning part of the world, and now it came to be determined whether or no this patience and humility were unassumed and sincere: the result was favourable to his character. His sudden elevation in society, and the immediate alteration of the manners of those with whom he had been accustomed to associate, his re-

moval into a new sphere of life, and his introduction to connections of a much more honourable nature—all these variations which were brought about by this single adventure, had not the effect of eradicating from his bosom those feelings of humility which had previously existed there. Although Mr. Fitzwarren now regarded him as a friend, cultivated his acquaintance, and took infinite pains to improve him in mental and exterior accomplishments, making him known to the most respectable characters in the political, as well as the commercial world; and, although Miss Fitzwarren began evidently to attach herself to him, preferring his company to that of the most opulent and most honourable of her father's visitors, yet he betrayed no haughtiness of soul under all this weight of prosperity; pride, arrogance, self-conceit, and an unbecoming consequence in no instance marked his behaviour. Kind and liberal to the servants, he gained their universal admiration, and had soon so far ingratiated himself into their affection, that they would have made any exertions, or suf-

ferred any toils or privations to have given him pleasure, or to have promoted his interests.

Mr. Whittington, from this period, became a public character. In conjunction with his late master he began to launch out into mercantile speculations to an extent which was not surpassed by any commercial men in the metropolis, and an uniformity of success appeared to crown all his efforts. By industry, application and prudence, he very speedily made considerable additions to his original stock, and gained an unbounded degree of credit in the trading world. Indeed he applied himself so assiduously to the obtainment of that knowledge which was necessary to his profession that he was very shortly esteemed a merchant unequalled in liberality, wisdom, wealth, connections, character, and enterprize.

Mr. Whittington was yet extremely young, when our third Edward, in the forty-sixth year of his reign, irritated by the success of the French Charles, who had rapidly re-conquered most of the English possessions in his country, and

appeared likely to expel our countrymen from the south of France, determined to send an army into Gascony to retrieve his affairs. It was also at this moment that he projected the siege of Rochelle; and, in order to prosecute his designs with the more energy, he called upon the nobility, clergy, and merchants for pecuniary aids to render his expedition more likely to command success. The corporation of the metropolis, anxious to evince their loyalty, on this occasion, presented the King with £10,000. towards which sum Mr. Whittington contributed a considerable proportion,* not less than one tenth of the whole, a circumstance which not only rendered him popular in consequence of his liberality and attachment to his king, but obtained for him also the

* It has been recorded, with too much haste and too little attention to the few authentic documents which notice this part of Mr. Whittington's life, that he, individually, paid in £10,000. on this occasion. But exclusive of the authorities we possess proving the error of this statement, it carries absurdity on its face, for, independent of the consideration of the largeness of the sum, it was matter of boast to his posterity, that he was able thirty years after this period to lend to Henry the Fourth a less sum.

especial favour of Edward himself, who was never backward to notice those who had the power to assist his schemes of military aggrandizement. He was now more courted than before, since he enjoyed the royal countenance in a peculiar degree. It is to be lamented, however, that the expedition, for the support of which this subsidy was granted, was, by an unfortunate combination of untoward events, rendered abortive; the tide of misfortune running so strongly against Edward, that he was compelled to conclude a truce with France on less honourable terms than might have been wished, and to relinquish nearly the whole of his possessions in that country.

The ill-success of this foreign expedition, however, did not interrupt Mr. Whittington's individual prosperity nor his progress to celebrity; for although historians have informed us that the commerce of the country was reduced to an extremely low ebb at this period, and that the number of trading vessels employed was comparatively insignificant, he continued successfully to court the

smiles of fortune, and by increased industry, obtained accumulated property. What might, in a great degree, have benefitted Mr. Whittington, was the conduct of Edward in levying taxes without the consent of parliament, a mode of requisition which was particularly unpopular amongst the London merchants, since it pressed heavily upon them, and urged the majority of them to withdraw out of the reach of the king's oppression. This exile, for such it might properly be called, had so thinned the metropolis of monied men, that those few who remained were enabled to engross the opportunities of laying out their property to advantage, which were daily offering. It may therefore readily be supposed that such a man as Mr. Whittington, who, with the ability of wealth, united the enterprizing spirit of youth, and the mature discretion of riper age, would turn such a period decisively to his own benefit, and would, by all honourable means, make it the handle by which he should endeavour to ascend still higher in the scale of society. The military disposition of the monarch, and

his wish still to preserve a tenable footing in France, of which he had resumed the title of king, led him to raise money on any terms; and as he knew, both from experience and the concurrent voice of rumour, that Mr. Whittington, amongst all his subjects, was the most capable of rendering him the services he required, he was never backward in applying to our hero, while the latter always displayed an equal readiness to lend the various accommodations which were demanded.

In the year 1377, parliament granted to the king a poll-tax of fourpence upon every male and female, whose age exceeded fourteen years, with some necessary exceptions. Seconding the views and efforts of this branch of the legislature, the clergy imposed a levy of a similar nature, although somewhat different in its extent and individual operation, upon religious persons. At the time of this impost being granted, the king was exceedingly straitened, for he had expended very considerable sums to gratify a female companion, with whom he had for some time been accustomed to recreate

from the toils of state. This lady, who possessed a mighty influence over Edward, had led him into very serious pecuniary difficulties, and it was on her banishment from the royal presence, which had been conceded to the desires and remonstrances of parliament, that he obtained this new pecuniary grant.

As soon as the measure had received the sanction of the Lords and Commons, the king rendered unable, from the immediate pressure of his necessities, to wait until the regular levies of the new tax should put him in possession of money, applied to the city of London, of which Adam Staple was at that time Lord Mayor, to advance him a loan of £4000 upon the security of this impost. Although all his previous demands had been received by the body corporate with the most profound respect, and had been readily acceded to, there appeared to be an unusual and incomprehensible backwardness on the present occasion; several days having been suffered to elapse without any definitive reply being given to the requisition. The king, whose age

and infirmities added greatly to the natural peevishness of his disposition, became angry at this delay, and repeated his message in a more peremptory manner; but as the Lord Mayor still equivocated, he was removed from his high office, in the very midst of his mayoralty, and Mr. Whittington, after receiving the honour of knighthood, in recompense for his past services, was raised to the civic chair. By this step Edward gained his object, and the fame of Sir Richard Whittington became completely established.

The mind naturally pauses at this period, to cast a rapid retrospect upon the wonderful rise of this great man, through all the intermediate conditions of life, from an under scullion to his exaltation to the highest distinctions which the metropolis could bestow. This remarkable progress is solely to be attributed to two causes. In the first place, to his indefatigable exertions in business, and the discreet judgment with which he directed and controlled those exertions; and by the prudent exercise of which he

secured to himself, in an unequalled degree, that uniformity of success which inferior minds have called good chance. He was ever enterprizing wherever he conceived that enterprize was more fraught with promise than menace, and in making this discrimination he never failed to weigh most seriously and maturely all the arguments on either side which he could collect ; at the same time taking care to avail himself of the knowledge of those who had purchased wisdom from the experience of a long life devoted to commercial pursuits. By these precautions, he, in a manner, fortified himself against failure, and it was only by the operation of events over which human ingenuity and penetration could exercise no control, that he ever suffered losses. His singular success may secondly be ascribed to the nature of his traffic, which consisted principally in those articles which were in constant as well as universal demand. Pearls were at this period in very general estimation amongst the ladies, insomuch that no one was considered dressed without a

profusion of these precious ornaments. This was also the chief commodity in which Mr. Whittington had traded, and the unfailing demand for it, added to the great profits attached, could not fail to enrich him who was so fortunate as to monopolize its sale.

The early part of the ascent to fortune and to fame is universally allowed to be the most difficult; honours and wealth, like streams of water, rush easily and rapidly through channels once formed. Thus it was with Sir Richard, whose conduct as Lord Mayor received such unequivocal tributes of public approbation, as to place his merits beyond the reach of doubt. Attentive to the high and important duties of his office alone; careful to give cause of complaint to none, but, on the contrary, strenuous and impartial in his efforts to remove those causes which did exist, he won and enjoyed the esteem, the love, and the admiration of all classes of citizens. His motives were correctly appreciated, and to his name encomiums were lavishly attached by those whose dispositions lead

them to respect what is good amongst mankind. But it is not hence to be supposed that there were no persons who looked upon Sir Richard's actions with a jaundiced eye ; it is not to be supposed that foul mouthed slander did not frequently attempt to slaver a character even pure as his. So adulterated is the vision of man, that even when he looks upon those objects which approximate most nearly to perfection, it is too apt to convert the most prominent beauties into the vilest defects, and to scandalize that which ought to be approved. The whispers of malignant envy often assailed the character of Sir Richard, but so open and unimpeachable was the whole of his behaviour, and so evident was this truth to those who chose to judge dispassionately, that the efforts of the dissatisfied only recoiled upon themselves, without leaving the slightest impression upon the object intended to be injured. He was himself undisturbed by the malevolence of the unprincipled, since, contented with the consciousness of his own rectitude of thought and action, he

was ready at any moment to submit himself to the judgment of those over whom he presided. He was accustomed to remark, that the extraordinary exertions which many persons made to throw discredit upon him, in consequence of his former obscurity, were to him a source of considerable pleasure, since they convinced him that there was no part of his conduct subsequent to his elevation, which was beheld in a dubious light, or else these detractors would have taken their stand upon less slippery ground, when they attempted to pull down the superstructure of his popularity.

Sir Richard had scarcely served out the mayoralty into which he had been installed, when he was summoned to the parliament assembled in London, a proof that his abilities were highly rated, and that the confidence which the citizens had previously reposed in him had, in no way, been weakened by his conduct during his exaltation to the civic chair. In this new situation, clothed with additional honours, he retained his accustom-

ed prudence, and, on frequent occasions, gave evidence of talents, much more decisive than he had hitherto exhibited. It was not, however, in the power of wealth and distinction to destroy that equanimity of temper, that native humility of disposition, and that habitual benevolence, which had so strongly characterised him while moving in a humble sphere. Although elevated so greatly above his most sanguine hopes and most ardent expectations; although placed in a situation which his youthful imagination in its wildest and most wanton flights had never dared even to fix its eye upon, he was still renowned for his affability to his inferiors, and his engaging manners towards those with whom business had necessarily connected him. He knew well how to gain the affections of those around, and he also possessed the much more valuable secret of retaining them after they were won. In conversation, he professed himself ever open to instruction, and that not only upon specific points of knowledge, but on every subject, and he was always guarded

against the appearance of obstinacy, since he had always displayed an apprehension lest, by a tenacious adherence to opinions perhaps too hastily formed, he might unwillingly lead others into error.

While Sir Richard thus grew in fame, however, he was not unmindful of him to whom he owed the foundation of all that he enjoyed, and the sweetest moments of his life were passed in the society of Mr. Fitzwarren and his amiable daughter, at their private residence. The worthy merchant, who amongst his other qualifications, numbered penetration, soon perceived a growing attachment between Sir Richard and his daughter, and he felt no small degree of pleasure in finding that his suspicions were soon verified. No reasonable man, however opulent or honourable he might be, with the exception of those ennobled cyphers who consider that virtue can only exist in illustrious birth, could possibly form an objection to such an alliance as that of Sir Richard, whose sun had risen with so much splendour as to dazzle those who

attempted to gaze upon it. It is also probable, from the general tenor of Mr. Fitzwarren's conduct and disposition, that if Sir Richard had not been so highly gifted by fortune, he might have considered the promotion of his daughter's happiness as the first object to be regarded, and in consideration of this, might have consented to her union with Whittington. But the case was now otherwise; the situation of his old servant was splendidly unexceptionable, and it was evident that a reciprocal affection united the lovers. Mr. Fitzwarren, therefore, took an early opportunity of sounding them separately on the subject, and, finding that he had judged correctly of the state of their hearts, he gave his consent to the addresses of Sir Richard, who, from that moment, was received as the intended spouse of Miss Fitzwarren. In this situation he became a new object of envy to many who had previously given themselves no trouble concerning his progress : for the young lady, being known to possess a considerable fortune, and still more important expectations,

had never been without a numerous train of suitors, ready to swear eternal love and fidelity to her. These gentlemen, however, were now relieved from the trouble of any further attendance by the kind candour of Mr. Fitzwarren, who informed them as delicately as possible, that his daughter having selected a lover, those persons who visited her with similar pretensions could in future be looked upon merely in the light of common acquaintance, and, as such, he should ever be ready and happy to entertain them. The suitors, however, finding themselves frustrated in their designs, did not avail themselves of the merchant's conciliating invitation, but immediately gave over a pursuit which no longer carried with it a promise of ultimate success. Nettled, however, at their disappointment, many of the young sprigs of fashion could not refrain from wreaking their harmless vengeance upon their more fortunate rival, wondering how a man who possessed such acuteness, such knowledge, such connections, and such prospects of honourable alliances, as Mr. Fitzwarren,

could be guilty of such weakness and absurdity as to throw away his lovely daughter upon a man who sprang from nothing, and who was formerly the meanest of all his menial servants. Not contented with entertaining these thoughts, nor even with giving expression to them amongst their own friends, where they might naturally expect a coincidence of opinion, some few individuals had the audacity to elicit their sentiments in public ; but they were speedily made sensible of their own folly and temerity, in attempting to fasten discredit on a character so much superior to their own, and so infinitely beyond their reach. A thousand advocates started upon every side to espouse the cause of Sir Richard, and so completely were the tables turned upon his contemptible assailants, that they were soon happy to be permitted to sink into that obscurity, from which they would never have escaped by any other means than those they had adopted, and which had the speedy effect of rendering them meritedly despised and shunned by all the respectable classes of the community.

In the middle of the year 1381, however, an event occurred which interrupted the progress of Sir Richard with Miss Fitzwarren, as it called forth all the energies of his mind, in conjunction with those of all the leading men of the day. The parliament of which he was a member, had been removed from the metropolis, in consequence of a growing disposition to insubordination which had been for some months gradually increasing. This disaffected spirit had been excited by a concurrence of circumstances, amongst the principal of which may be stated the passing of an act by this parliament imposing a poll tax upon all persons above a certain age, of three groats each. The unpopularity of this measure extended rapidly to its framers, who instantly became objects of general odium; and this baneful spirit was excited to an alarming degree by one Ball, a vulgar fanatic, who went about preaching amongst the lower order; and, constantly inveighing against the oppressors of the day, stimulated the populace to rise and avenge their wrongs upon the

heads of those who so unfeelingly imposed them. These doctrines were every where received with the most unbounded avidity, for the minds of all had been predisposed to give them a welcome; and the circumstance of Wat Tyler's revenge on the tax collector, who was about to offer insult to his daughter, caused the long smothered flame to burst forth with astonishing violence. The enraged populace, to the amount of one hundred thousand, and headed by Tyler and a few others of equally desperate characters and fortunes, marched directly towards London, maltreating in the most savage manner, every person who fell into their way, and whose conduct and appearance denoted him a gentleman; for their hostility was indiscriminately directed against all the gentry of the kingdom, and they swore to annihilate this distinction before they would be satisfied. Full of this seditious frenzy, they broke into the metropolis, and, having won over the dregs of the populace to assist them, they began with destroying the residences of those nobility and gentry whom they could not find,

and with beheading those who were so unhappy as to fall into their hands. They next proceeded to the warehouses of the merchants, and commenced their destructive operation with equal zeal and fury, pillaging and consuming all that came in their way. Amongst the others Sir Richard was a considerable sufferer on this occasion, for his warehouses were too spacious and wealthy to escape the gaze of malice, and they were in their turn plundered and injured to a very considerable extent. The magnanimity of Sir Richard, however, greatly displayed itself on this afflictive occasion; for, so far was he from seeking revenge for his losses, that he exerted himself continually, to the extreme risk of his personal safety, to persuade the misguided populace to represent the cause of their complaints with coolness and candour, in order that they might find early redress. He represented to them the absurdity of their present behaviour, which, instead of removing their grievances, would only tend to the ultimate increase of their miseries; for as they now complained of the scarcity of

money, they would find the evil greatly magnified by the general and extensive destruction they were now bringing upon thousands of innocent individuals, many of whom were as much oppressed, and had, to the full, as great reason to complain of the desperate nature of their situation, as themselves. His exhortations, however, produced no effect whatever: when the elements of passion are kindled and in commotion, the whispers of reason are wasted on the air. The excesses continued; murders, devastation and disorder marked the progress of the insurgents; and it would be impossible to calculate upon the probable termination of the insurrection, had not the fortitude of Sir William Walworth, and the king, by the death of Tyler, opposed a timely and effectual check.

During this eventful period, the council of Sir Richard was sought after and resorted to with the utmost avidity, by men of the first consequence in the kingdom, and the utmost attention and deference were paid to his advice. A portion of his loss was proffered to be reimbursed to him

out of the royal treasury, after the insurrection had been put down, but he replied that the poverty of the state would not warrant such an act of liberality; and as his injuries were not so great as seriously to oppress him, he should rather choose that the weight should lie on his shoulders, than on the public. This reply tended in no small degree to increase his popularity, and his patriotism, from this moment was as loudly blazoned forth as his good fortune and prudence had previously been. Those noblemen, also, to whom the government of this kingdom had been entrusted during the minority of Richard, were not less gratified at the independence and magnanimity displayed by this great man, as they particularly felt the value of such an example in the present disturbed state of affairs, when rank and property was made the butt of the commonalty. They accordingly took care to give publicity to the motives of Sir Richard, as well as his behaviour, in the hope that this measure would assist to remove those prejudices which the vulgar had cherished.

In the mean time the cessation of these tumults had once more left Sir Richard at liberty to turn his attention to those matters which were connected with his domestic happiness. His attachment to Miss Fitzwarren was no longer partially known, but became a subject of general conversation, and he was anxious to make her his own without any superfluous delay. On this subject he communicated his sentiments to her father, and it was soon adjusted that the marriage should immediately take place. The intermediate weeks were accordingly devoted to the necessary preparations for this change of circumstances; and time, at length, yielding a propitious ear to the secret wishes of the lovers, introduced the auspicious morning which was to crown their hopes, and behold them united under the sanction of Mr. Fitzwarren, who wept with joy to see his daughter's happiness completed, and the fond expectations realized, which he had so long entertained.

Sir Richard had now entered upon a new era in life. Hitherto his public virtues only had been called into action,

and they had uniformly justified the highest opinions that could be entertained respecting them. But now were his domestic feelings to be employed, and those softer graces of the heart which adorn human nature in retirement from the busy world became animated. He had shone conspicuously as a senator, a merchant, and the chief magistrate of the city; but he was now to head a different path, and to fulfil the softer and more delightful duties of a husband and father. These are the mild offices that unfold the disposition of man, and call into play all those latent and refined feelings of happiness, which shrink within themselves at a ruder touch. The temperament of the mind of Sir Richard was exactly adapted to this domestic enjoyment, and he was happy enough to discover in his wife those congenial qualities from which might be expected to result the purest and most permanent felicity. Attentive to the most trivial wishes of each other, and anxious to promote their mutual joys, they allowed not the connubial fetters to gall, but rendered them, on the contrary,

light and pleasant, by continuing to reciprocate the attentions of lovers. Twelve-months after this happy union, the lady of Sir Richard produced him a son, to his inexpressible delight; and this circumstance rendered her still more dear to him, since it acted as an additional tie between them, a chain, which with indissoluble strength, united their affections, and cemented their hearts in one, making their joys, their wishes, and their lives the same.

But, although Sir Richard's principal delight consisted in his family, he was still ready to lend his whole weight of discretion and experience to public matters. A few years after his marriage, he was called to the execution of a most important duty, in behalf of the citizens, who, in all matters of intricacy or importance, looked up to him for guidance and assistance. The public treasures had been shamefully lavished away in an incursion into Scotland, and in the purposes of forming and opposing political cabals at home, and Richard, being absent in Ireland, a parliament was summoned in

London, in the seventeenth year of his reign, by one of his uncles, in which Richard's extreme poverty was made the plea for demanding new favours on the part of the citizens of London. With their usual loyalty and readiness to render their sovereign every accommodation in their power, even to their own material inconvenience, the citizens accordingly deputed a mission to parliament, under the sole management and controul of Sir Richard; and, by this mission, they granted to the king, one tenth of their personal estates, for four years, in case the war should continue to that period, or on the termination of hostilities, should that sooner take place; and in consideration of this grant the king was to pledge himself to the expenditure of the money in the wars alone, and to act entirely under the direction of his council. Happy to procure money by any means and on any terms, Richard readily acquiesced in these conditions, at the same time expressing his satisfaction at this new proof of his subjects' obedience, and of their willingness to bear their proportion of the hardships of the times.

In the management of this business Sir Richard acquitted himself with such singular uprightness, prudence and ability, that his name has in consequence, been honourably recorded and handed to posterity for this single act of his life. The citizens, elated at the successful issue of their mission which, considering the hasty and impetuous disposition of their youthful monarch, they had scarcely dared to anticipate, were lavish in the proffers of their tributes of applause and gratitude to Sir Richard, who received the concurrent and simultaneous emotion with a modesty and humility which served but the better to reflect his worth, and render his exalted qualities the more conspicuous. It was this mission which introduced our hero to the notice of the Duke of York, the king's uncle, who, in the absence of his nephew had been delegated to convey his sentiments of his citizens; and so pleased was this illustrious nobleman with the boldness and modesty which were blended in the manners of the knight, that he took occasion to make goodly mention of him to the

king as a discreet, wise, and enlightened subject.

But the good effects resulting from this mission ended not here; for so completely did the conduct of Sir Richard, in the management of this affair, establish him among his fellow-citizens as a man of unequalled penetration, skill, and decision of character, that, henceforward, they applied to him in all difficult cases, as an arbitrator, and his decision was uniformly considered as final, and readily acquiesced in. The affairs of the first metropolis in the world were confidently entrusted to his management, and as the legislators of the day were by no means ignorant of the beneficial consequences which resulted from the maintenance of a good understanding with such a powerful body as the citizens, they were, in no respect, backwards in paying their court to a man who possessed such singular interest in the corporation, and to whom the city looked up as to a father, and a director in affairs of the utmost private or public magnitude.

There was another class of society which owed much to Sir Richard, nor was it niggardly in its acknowledgment of the debt, and this was the poor citizens. He had constantly made it a rule to dedicate a particular portion of his income to munificent acts of private benevolence, but he was not long able to perform them with that secrecy which he wished; for so liberally did his disposition lead him to relieve the wretched, that their feelings, weighed down by too heavy a burden of gratitude, could not keep the silence required of them, but found it an addition to their felicity, to proclaim its author to the world. But his bounty was not confined to casual acts of charity, giving a momentary relief, and then leaving its object to find out new sources of existence; on the contrary, wherever he undertook to render service, he extended his hand so far as to lift the sinking wretch completely out of the mire of adversity, and to place him on firm ground, and in a situation from which, by his own exertions, he might raise himself to a degree of res-

pectability in society. His advice and his purse were equally open to those who solicited from either, and to his counsel he considered the destitute as possessing infinitely stronger claims than those whom wealth and its consequent importance rendered more bold and clamorous in their endeavours to share it.

In the year 1397 Sir Richard was again called to the civic chair, by the unanimous voice of his fellow citizens ; and this in the city records is called his first mayoralty, since his former elevation to that important dignity, was merely brought about by king Edward, in order to facilitate the carrying his private views into effect, and to supersede a mayor who had, by his negligence of the king's requests, and his reluctance to comply with them, rendered himself obnoxious to his sovereign. But at this period he was seated in the chair of civic greatness and sovereignty by the spontaneous and universal suffrages of those, who, from long acquaintance and observation, had become familiar with his

good qualities, and were anxious to see a proper scope given for their exercise. Nor did his subsequent conduct, during this mayoralty, disappoint the hopes and expectations of those who were accessory to his elevation. With impartial hand he poised the scales of justice, and acted uprightly between those who applied to him for the redress of grievances, or the recovery of rights; the oppressor always found himself checked in his tyranny by him who was every where hailed as the friend of the poor; and his attention was as readily devoted to the complaints of the destitute, as to the applications of the highest amongst the privileged orders. Condescension and integrity were his ruling principles of action, and it was by reducing these qualities to a practical illustration, that he conciliated the affections of all classes, and gained admiration even from those individuals who became sufferers in consequence of his judicial decisions.

From this high civic distinction he was speedily summoned to take an active part in the political transactions of the

day, since, in the year 1399, less than two years after the expiration of his mayoralty, he is recorded to have formed a principal personage in the deputation sent to king Richard to remind him of the promise he had made to abdicate the throne. The irresolution, imprudence, violence, and inability which had been so frequently conspicuous during this sovereign's administration of the government, had reduced him so low in the public opinion, and had so degraded him before his subjects, that he now found himself, in the very prime and vigour of his life, forsaken by his friends and his people, in the hands of his enemies, deposed, insulted, and a prisoner.

It may appear perhaps somewhat difficult to justify Sir Richard's conduct towards his sovereign, on the score of consistency; since, in the parliament convoked in the earlier part of the reign of Richard, of which Sir Richard composed a part, and which, according to Hume and other respectable historians was formed entirely of merchants and country gentlemen, he had displayed a

warm, consistent and uniform attachment to his sovereign. In fact, there was one single act which showed the fear and blind devotion to Richard which actuated the measures of this assembly, for, having recommended to the king increased frugality, they desired for that purpose that he would not in future keep company with so many bishops and ladies as formerly. This freedom incensed Richard extremely, and although the parliament, by the meanest concessions, endeavoured to conciliate his favour, he was deaf to their supplications, until they consented to give up the originator of the remonstrance which had so highly offended, in order that he might be dealt with as a traitor. They consented to this humiliating proposition, gave up the member, who was tried and condemned for his independence, but his sentence was subsequently changed to banishment. In many other instances, this parliament, and the one that succeeded it at a later period of the reign, displayed an equal anxiety to retain the favour of the king, and, for this purpose, they

sanctioned whatever acts he submitted to them, and liberally voted him every support which his cupidity or impetuosity led him to demand. Yet the tide of fortune had no sooner begun to recede, than those very men who had most warmly supported their king during the continuance of his power and prosperity, in the hour of adversity turned their backs upon him, and upon his conqueror lavished those adulations which had been previously paid to Richard. When the Duke of Lancaster conducted the king to London as his prisoner, the recorder of the city, accompanied by some of the most eminent merchants, amongst whom was Sir Richard Whittington, met the conqueror, and intreated that he would put Richard to death, pretending that the peace and welfare of the city and the kingdom would be promoted by such a measure of cruelty. And, after the confinement of the king in the Tower, we again find Sir Richard, as before stated, forming one of the deputation to remind him of his promise to abdicate his throne.

Notwithstanding this apparent desertion of his sovereign may appear to dim the brilliance of Sir Richard's character, the impartial reader may find in the subsequent causes something like a satisfactory apology for his inconsistency. In the earlier part of this reign, the people had been led to form great expectations as to the ability, energy, and attention to his subjects which would one day characterise the acts of Richard, when he should have escaped from the fetters of his minority. His undaunted and prudent behaviour during the insurrection of Wat Tyler, and many other of the actions of his juvenile years had warranted this favourable opinion. But on his coming into possession of the unrestrained exercise of the royal prerogative the nation perceived with regret that it had been deceived; since the king displayed a disposition directly the opposite of that which had been anticipated. He hesitated not to oppress the people for the furtherance of his own private views, and, (an act which perhaps tended more to alienate from him the friendship

and loyalty of Sir Richard Whittington and the city leaders, than any other of his whole reign), upon some trivial occasion, and in a fit of ungovernable spleen, he seized the charter of the city of London. The evident unpopularity of this measure, however, and the instantaneous sensation which it produced, induced this weak and wavering prince to restore it again immediately; yet the citizens, notwithstanding this concession, could not suppress their rage and mortification without the most extreme difficulty. Independent of this, the character of Richard had been held in much less public estimation for some time, in consequence of his admitting all men to his familiarity, so that his name and conduct were no longer treated with that respectful deference which ought to be preserved towards a sovereign. The public, losing their veneration for him in consequence of this behaviour, showed no regard to his person, but made no hesitation loudly to assert their complaints against him whenever the slightest cause of discontent could be discovered; and the irreso-

lute and partial behaviour of Richard on these occasions, only served to bring his name and character into still more contempt. By these means, the expectations of the people were disappointed, and their early hopes deceived; the prepossessions which had been created in all bosoms in his favour by his youthful good conduct were completely expunged, and the subsequent ill treatment of his person by his sanguinary and relentless enemies, even to his murder, excited no popular sensation, nor induced any of his subjects to raise a halberd in his defence, or to express a word in vindication of him. These causes, also, if they do not fully justify Sir Richard Whittington's change of sentiment and conduct towards his sovereign, must operate as very considerable palliatives; and it may be matter of discussion whether a consistent support of such a prince as Richard, under all his changes and oppressions, might not have been more criminal than that support of his virtues and opposition to his vices, which we have denominated inconsistency.

Sir Richard Whittington, it is true, may have been influenced, in some degree, by the same considerations that moved others equal in rank and popularity with himself. He must have seen the gradual decline of Richard's popularity, and the progressive establishment of the Lancastrian interests upon its wreck; and, with an eye to his own interest, coupled with the misconduct of his sovereign, he might have leaned to that side which seemed most likely to preponderate in the scale of politics. This line of conduct, indeed, is the same as great men, in all ages of the world, have adopted, and it surely was no more to be censured in Sir Richard than in others. The Duke of Lancaster, it is well known, spared no effort to found and build up an interest for himself in the public favour; and it was not to be supposed that in carrying this view into effect, he would pass over a man so eminent in the city as Sir Richard; and consequently, one from whose friendship he might hope to reap such important services. It was not, on the other hand, probable that Sir Richard

would long withstand the friendly proffers of a prince whose popularity was daily increasing, for the sake of displaying his attachment to a king, who by his misconduct had forfeited every claim to it, and who, at this moment, was reduced to the lowest ebb of ignominy and adversity. It is probable too that the adherence of Sir Richard to the house of Lancaster, from the commencement of Richard's captivity and imprisonment, produced no trifling influence upon the resolves of the city of London, which subsequently came forward in the support of the claims of that prince.

The disposition of the sovereign having been sanctioned by the parliament, the way was now opened to Henry of Lancaster, who thereupon stepped forward in the assembly, and asserted his pretensions to the crown, and as there was none who seemed disposed to dispute or contest his right, he found no difficulty in stepping into the vacant seat, for the suffrages of the people were in his favour, not so much on account of any superior title he possessed, and which indeed was flatly

denied by great numbers, but in consequence of his interference and the energy he displayed in rescuing the nation from the oppression under which it had so long groaned. Of the parliament, in which this claim upon the throne was made and received, Sir Richard Whittington formed a part, and he lent his assistance at the subsequent coronation of Henry, to whom he took the accustomed oaths of submission and allegiance.

The life of this remarkable character necessarily embraces the political history of his day; for, perhaps, there is not another instance on record of a private merchant, who was so regularly, under every variation of administration and circumstance, employed in the management of state affairs, and this fact affords a proud and incontrovertible proof of the high estimation in which his character, conduct, and abilities were held by men of the most opposite parties and interests. His munificent loyalty gained him the esteem of Edward the third: to the same cause may be attributed the favour which the unfortunate Richard extended to-

wards him ; and Henry of Lancaster considered his countenance and acquaintance of no inconsiderable value in consequence of the controul he possessed over the minds of the citizens. These facts also strongly tend to confirm, what history has already conveyed to us, that the ancient sovereigns of England valued the assistance and sanction of the city of London to their schemes and views as of greater importance than any other single consideration, and it was this opinion which induced successive monarchs to cultivate the regard, and to secure the best exertions of those men who possessed the greatest ascendancy over their fellow-citizens. This may account for the high estimation in which Sir Richard was held.

When Henry ascended the throne, Sir Richard had arrived at the zenith of his greatness. His wealth and popularity seemed to have gained their meridian, and none amongst the wealthy citizens could presume to vie with him. It was at this period, however, that he was doomed to submit to a privation which afflicted

his feelings more than any loss of riches and honours could have done. The amiable Mr. Fitzwarren, in whose society and conversation, Sir Richard had ever found one of his principal enjoyments, and who had long laboured under a complication of disorders, the necessary consequence of advanced age, had, at length, bowed his head under the severity of his corporeal sufferings, and terminated a long, valuable and virtuous life, valuable because it was virtuous, in the arms of his distressed son-in-law, who administered in his dying moments all the consolation which affectionate piety could give, or ardent hope receive. This melancholy event threw a transient gloom over the spirits of this amiable family, but the incessant efforts of Sir Richard to restore happiness to his beloved wife, efforts which were reciprocated by her with an equal degree of tenderness, soon softened down the darkness of affliction into the sober tints of regret; and the rapid succession of important matters, which gradually stole away the thoughts of Sir Richard from the object on which they

still loved to linger, rendered the remedy complete, and ultimately deprived recollection of the bitterness which had clouded its earlier hours.

The death of this respected man, although it materially abridged the happiness of Sir Richard and lessened the number of his enjoyments, caused a very important addition to his wealth, adding to it the whole produce of a long life spent in industrious pursuits, and on which good fortune had uniformly smiled. This accession of property, however, was regarded by Sir Richard as a poor consideration for the loss of one so dear to him, and as his own wealth was immense, he refused to make his fortune unwieldy by this recent addition, but prepared rather to invest it for the benefit of his wife and children, after applying a portion to the purposes of public benevolence, by the institution of one or two charitable foundations. There were not wanting some, however, who attributed this display of beneficence to motives of ostentation; but the whole tenor and character of his life produced the best answer that

could be given to these unmerited aspersions, which owed their origin entirely to that spirit of malignant envy which is inseparably connected with human nature, and which, like the canker-worm, delights to select the fairest and most estimable productions of creation, on which to mark its devastating progress, and to prove its power to deface and to destroy.

Shortly after the coronation of Henry, alarmed at the preparations making by the kings of France and Scotland for an invasion of England, he summoned a parliament to grant him aid to repel these menaced attempts. This assembly, however, disgraced itself by acts of unprecedented violence and outrage, the most ancient and honourable peers who were present, making no scruple to arraign each other as traitors, and according to Hume, "forty gauntlets, the pledges of furious battle, were thrown on the floor of the house, by noblemen who gave mutual challenges." At this great council, not very honourable in its conduct, although composed of the most honour-

able men of the kingdom, Sir Richard Whittington assisted. The violence of the mutual recriminations which were witnessed on this occasion, retarded, but did not prevent the discussion of the important business on which the house had assembled. Before the meeting was adjourned, the views of the king were completely fulfilled; the barons and clergy agreeing to unite with the city of London, in granting to the sovereign one tenth of their property, to aid him in his endeavours vigorously to oppose and repel the powerful attack which the two hostile potentates appeared to meditate against him. But the death of the king Richard, and the state of France, internally torn by dissensions which required all the vigour and attention of Charles to repress, added to the surrender of his daughter to his request, by Henry, prevented the carrying into effect of those plans of hostility which had been maturing for some time, and enabled both these sovereigns to turn their observation to their domestic politics.

Sir Richard Whittington had, by his

readiness to second the views of Henry on behalf of the city of London, completely ingratiated himself in that sovereign's good opinion, and had so cemented the friendly understanding that had previously existed between them, that he was now called to take a still more active part in public affairs. In those negotiations which the king found it necessary to set on foot with his nobles, respecting matters of domestic policy, Sir Richard was always placed as a prominent character. In a treaty of this nature with the Earl of Northumberland, he was only second to the Archbishop of York, in the list of commissioners appointed to treat on behalf of the king; and so satisfactorily did he acquit himself of the duty required of him, that a report of his conduct to Henry was made which redounded so greatly to his advantage, that the monarch was pleased to receive him into his entire confidence, and to consult with him on all matters of public interest.

Sir Richard Whittington was now in the fiftieth year of his age, in the full vigour of his intellectual and bodily powers; and

in such high favour did he stand with his sovereign, that he might easily have been created a peer by patent, a custom which had been introduced in the preceding reign, and, indeed, such a remuneration for his assistance and loyalty was more than once proffered to him by Henry. But Sir Richard, happy in his private life and his commercial connections, free from the suspicions and strifes which in those days, were inseparable from nobility, warned moreover by the catastrophes which were every day befalling the peers who surrounded him, and who were continually sinking, the victims of treachery and envy, he uniformly and resolutely, although with grateful respect for the honour offered, declined entering into a sphere, for which he felt that he was neither fitted by nature nor inclination. He was perhaps not a little influenced on this occasion by the fate of the Earl of Northumberland, of whom he had particular knowledge, through the business he had been chosen to negotiate with him; and who, excited by mingled feelings of ambition, hatred

and revenge, had taken up arms against his sovereign, and continued in open hostility to him, until his contumacy was terminated by his death at the battle of Bramham.

In the seventh year of the reign of Henry the fourth, and in the year 1406, Sir Richard was a second time, called by the voice of the citizens to fill the important office of Lord Mayor. This was the precise period in which Henry found himself distracted and perplexed by the rebellion of Northumberland, at the same time that he was involved in pecuniary embarrassments of the most serious complexion, being reduced to the utmost shifts to find the means of keeping up his military and civil establishments. In this emergency he threw himself for support, upon the generosity of his people, and in the list of the contributions which resulted from this appeal, we find the name of Sir Richard Whittington recorded as the donor of one thousand pounds, while a bishop of the first consequence and wealth contributed only one hundred marks to the same purpose, viz. the main-

tenance and support of the king's garrison of Calais, an object which, at that moment, was looked upon universally as inferior in importance to none. Such a liberal support could not fail to bring Sir Richard into still greater repute than ever; and, indeed, the recorder of this last act of his munificence, remarks that he was considered one of the most loyal, respectable, discreet, and wealthy men in the city of London.

Sir Richard, however, as he advanced in years, grew anxious to display more substantial evidence of his gratitude to that Providence which had so constantly smiled on his commercial and political transactions, and had so bountifully conferred on him riches and celebrity. His deeds of private benevolence were numerous and great, but he wished to perform some act of pious liberality, which, according to the religious notions and maxims of his age, might tend greatly to his eternal welfare; for the superstition of the day, placed more merit and holiness in the foundation of a church, than in the rescue of a thousand dis-

tressed families from the jaws of destruction, and the affording them the means and opportunity of making their way through the darkness and difficulties of futurity. Tinged with the prevailing sentiments, Sir Richard determined to found a religious house; he accordingly applied to his sovereign for a licence for the church of St. Michael, Royal, in the year 1410, preferring this simple boon to those splendid offers of nobility which Henry had repeatedly offered to him. His request was readily complied with, and having obtained the royal licence; and, in the following year, having gained a piece of vacant ground suited to his purpose, which the mayor and commonalty of London granted to him, he began to carry his pious views into immediate execution, and built and endowed the church and made it a college of St. Spirit and St. Mary; the tenor of the foundation ran thus, denominating the benefactor as Richard Whittington, mercer, four times mayor (for it was not completed until after his last mayoralty,) for a master, four fellows, master

of arts, clerks, conduets, chorists, &c. and an alms house, was attached, called God's House or Hospital, for thirteen poor men. One of them to be tutor, and to have sixteen-pence the week; the other twelve each of them to receive fourteen-pence the week for ever, with other necessary provision, an hutch with three decks, a common seal, &c. These were "bound to pray for the good estate of Richard Whittington and Alice his wife, their founders; and for Sir William Whittington, knight,* and Dame Joan his wife; and for Hugh Fitzwarren and Dame Molde his wife, the fathers and mothers of the said Richard Whittington and Alice his wife; for King Richard the second, and Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, special lords and promoters of the said Whittington," &c. and it follows in the will, "for Anne and Eleanor the wives of the said king and duke. Furthermore also for the good heel and staat of our aforsaid lord

* We have not ascertained with any degree of certainty, either the time when, or the occasion on which Sir Richard procured for his father the honour of knighthood.

(King Henry VI.) and archbishop, (Henry Ceichley) that now be, and the conservators and benefactors of the same house, while they live; and for good staat while we live; and for their souls and ours, when they and we be passed out of this world; and generally for them to whom the said Richard Whittington and Alice, were byheld to in any mannerwise, while they live, and for all chrysten soules.”*

In the possession of the company of mercers, still remain the original ordinances of this charity, which we readily subjoin, not only on account of the curious specimen this document affords of the style and manner of the remote age in which Sir Richard lived, but because that which assumes to be a life of this celebrated man, would be incomplete unless this matter were interwoven in its pages. There needs, therefore, no apology for its introduction, since it is strictly in conformation to the plan of this

*This foundation was subsequently re-confirmed by parliament in the third and tenth year of the reign of Henry VI. The alms-house, on its original foundation, still remains, and is supported by the mercers.

work. These ordinances made by his executors, John Coventre, Jenkin Carpentre, and William Grove, the executors of Sir Richard Whittington, are fairly written, and on the first page, allumined by a curious representation of "Whittington lying on his death-bed, a very lean consumed, meagre body; and his three executors, and a priest, and divers others, standing by his bedside." The document runs as follows:—

"To all the trew people of Cryst, that shalle se or here the things which be conteyned within these present letters, John Coventre, Jenkin Carpentre, and William Grove, &c. executors of the testament of the worthy and notable merchaunt Richard Whittington, late citezin and mercer of the cite of London, and oftentimes meyer of the same cite, sending gretying in our Lord God everlastinge.

"The fervent desire and besy intention of a prudent, wyse, and devout man, shall be to caste before and make secure the state and the ende of the shorte liffe with dedys of mercy and pite; and namely

to provyde for such poure persons, which grievous penure and cruel fortune have oppressed, and be not of power to gete their lyving, either by craft or any other bodily labour: whereby that, at the daie of the last judgement, he may take his part with them that shal be saved. This considering the foresayde worthy and notable merchaunt Richard Whittington, the which while he leved had ryght liberal and large hands to the needy and poure people, charged streitly, on his death-bed, us his foresayde executors, to ordeyne a house of almes after his death, for perpetual sustentation of such poure people as is tofore rehersed, and thereupon fully he declared his will unto us. And we wylling after our power to fullfil the entent of his commendable will and hole-some desire on his part, as we be bound:

“First, yfounded by us, with sufficient authorite, in the church of Seint Michell’s, in the royolle of London, where the forsayde Richard and dame Alice his wife be biried, a commendable college of certain prestes and clerkis, to do there every day divine service for the forsayde Richard and Alice.

“ We have founded also, after the wille above-seid, a house of alms for xiii poure folk for evermore, to dwell and to be sustained in the same; which house is situated and edified upon a certain soyl that we bought therefore, late in the parish of Seint Mighell forsayde; that is to say, bytween the forsayde church and the wall that closeth in the voyde place behind the high auter of the same church in the south side, and a great tenement, that was the late house of the forsayde Richard Wyttington, in the north side. And it stretcheth fro the dwelling place of master and the priestis of the college aboveseyde. The which also we did late to be now added in the east side unto a great voyde place of our land. The which, by the help of God we purpose to do be hallowed lawfully for a church-yard to the same church within short time in the west side.

“ And in the more full and clere foundation and ordinaunce, and also stablyng of the foreseyde alms-house for poure men, the myght of the Fadre, the wysdom of the Sonne, and the goodnesse of the Holy

Ghost, fyrst of al ycalled unto our help, we proceed in this wyse :

“ Fyrst, both by lycence, graunt and authorite of the right mighty prince and Lord King Henry VI. King of England, of Fraunce that now is ; and also by the wille and consent of the ryght worthy lord and fadre in Cryst. Henry, by the sufferance of God, Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, and legate of the see of Rome, of whose jurisdiction immediate be the church and parishe abovesaid ; and the graunt and consent of all and every man, that had any title partie, before required and had.”

After this prefatory matter, the ordinances begin, as they follow—

“ To be twelve poure folks aloonly of men or women togiddre ; after the said discretion and good conscience of the overseers underwrit, and conservators of the same house, to be provided and admitted.

“ The which every day, when due and convenient time is, shal pray for evermore for al the now being alive, and also for the by-past, to God ; whose names of great specialty been expressed in these statutes underwrit.

“To be one principal, which shall pas al other in power and reverence, and be called tutour. The office and charge of him shal be the goods of the almes-house, which shal come to his hands, well and truly to minister: the goods dissevered to gather again togiddre, to the use of the almes-house; and the husbandry of the same house in as much as he may goodly oversee, dispose or ordain; enforcing himself to edifie and nourish charity and peace among his felawes.

“The pourer folks under the said tutour evermore shal obey.

“The thirteen pouer folke to be liable in conversation, and honest in living.

“The same house to be called for ever God’s-house, or almes-house, or the hospital of Richard Wyttington.

“The lord maior to be overseer of the seid almes-house; and the keepers of the commonalty of the craft of mercers to be called for evermore conservators of the foreseyde house.

“The tutour to have a place by himself, that is to say, a cell, or little house, with a chimney and a prevy, and other necessities, in which he shall lyegge and rest,

and that he may aloon and by himself, without let of any other person, intend to the contemplation of God, if he woll.

“ That the said tutour and pourer folke, whan they be in aboveseid houses and cells, and also in the cloisters and other places of the foreseyde almes-houses, have hemself queitlie and pesably, without noise or disturbance of his felawes; and that they occupy hemself in prayer or reading, or labour of his handes, or in some other occupations, &c.

“ In witness, we have put to our seals, gyven at Londen, the xxi day of Decemb. in the yere of our Lord a thousand ccccxxiiii and the yere of King Henry VI. after the conquest the thrydde.

“ Go litel boke, go litel tregedie

“ Thee lowly submytting to al correction

“ Oftheym being maisters now of the mercery,

“ Olney, Felding, Boleyne, and of Burton :

“ Hertely theym beseyking with humble salutation.

“ Thee to accept, and thus to take in gre,

“ For evre to be a servant withyn yeare comminaltie.”

The appointments and ordinances for the direction of their daily devotional exercises, their eating, and their manner of dress were as follow.

“ Every tutour and pouer folke every day first when they rise fro their bedds, kneeling upon their knees, say a pater-noster and an ave maria, with special and herty recommendation makeing of the foreseyed Richard Whyttington and Alice to God, and our blessed Lady Maidyn Mary; and other times of the day, whan he may best and most commonly have leisure thereto, for the staat of al the souls abovesaid, say three or two sauters of our lady at the least; that is to say, threise seaven ave marias, with xv pater nosters, and three aedes: but if he be letted with feebleness, or any other reasonable cawse, one in the day at least, in case it may be; that is to say, after the messe, or when complyn is don, they come togidder within the college about the tomb of the foreseyde Richard Whyttington and Alice, and they that can sey shall say, for the soules of the seid Richard and Alice, and for the soules of al christen people this psalm, *de profundis*, with the versieles and oriosons that longeth thereto. And they that can shall sey three pater-nosters, three ave-marias, and one crede. And after this doon, the tutour or one of the eldest

men of theym, shal sey openly in English, God have mercy on our ferendeis soules, and al chrysten; and they that stand about shal answer and say Amen.

“That they be bound to dwell and abide continewally in the seid almes house, and bounds thereof; and that every day, both at meet and souper, they eet and be fed within the seid almes-house; and while they be at meet or soupier, they absteyn thanne from vayn and ydel wordes; and if they wol any thyng talk, that it be honest and profitable.

“That the overclothing of the tutour and pourer folk, be derk and brown of colour, and not staring ne blaising, and of easy prised, according to their degre.”

The executors of the will of Sir Richard Whittington, constituted five chaplains in his college founded in this church, which were confirmed by Henry VI.*

* It is said that “this church of St. Michael Pater Noster in the Vintry, the capital house and site thereof, called Whittington College, alias Whittington, and one garden belonging to the same, of the yearly value of four pounds six shillings and eight pence, was sold to Arruagill Waad, clerk of the council, in the second of Edward VI. for ninety two pounds two shillings.”

Sir Richard, however, did not confine himself to acts of piety in his public benevolence, but proved himself a friend to learning by his building a library in Grey Friars, and his liberal endowment to Christ's hospital. Bartholomew's hospital also owed much of its prosperity to his liberality; and Guildhall was greatly beautified and improved under his management and at his individual expense. He also expended a considerable sum in building Newgate as it stood previous to the fire of London; so that here is most ample evidence of his princely beneficence, not in the institution of a single charitable establishment, but in the foundation, enlargement, or support of many. His fame, consequently, kept pace with his splendid exertions to diffuse competence and happiness amongst his fellow creatures; every tongue was loud in its spontaneous tributes to his excellence; and the blessings of thousands whom his fortune had rescued from oblivion, and aided and stimulated on to happiness and independence, followed his steps.

The energy and fire which had ever characterized Sir Richard's disposition in commercial pursuits, as well as matters of more general and public importance, became gradually less conspicuous as he advanced in years. He had therefore wisely retired from the more bustling scenes of mercantile business, committing the management of his affairs to a confidential person who had deserved well of him, during a service of many years. Sir Richard was thus enabled to devote his chief attention to public matters and to the pleasure of domestic intercourse. Thus was he situated at the death of Henry IV. two or three years previous to which event, however, Sir Richard had been almost forgotten by that prince, since the upright and independent merchant had ceased to court the favour of a monarch, who, during the latter part of his reign had maintained by terror alone that seat to which the free choice of the people had elected him. Sir Richard was by no means formed to be a courtier; his disposition and behaviour were not pliant enough to bend and cringe for favours. His conduct was

calculated to command admiration by its splendid munificence, and to this circumstance was it owing that sovereigns courted his aid; but he was not cut out to make a favourite for kings, nor to retain by parasitical cunning the honour which had been attached to himself by his manliness and magnanimity. He found in the bosom of his family and of those connections which his virtues had drawn to him, a pleasure more solid and refined than any which could flow from the smiles of kings, or the unmeaning compliments of statesmen who never seek acquaintance except from interested views. He had no opinion of the happiness which existed in the breath of courts, nor did he ever wish to be numbered amongst those who will crouch at the foot of a throne, and lay their necks in the dust for the foot of royalty to tread upon. Such was not the constitution of Sir Richard Whittington's disposition; he reckoned the friendship of a virtuous merchant infinitely more honourable, and more productive of permanent bliss, than the most condescending smiles of a vicious monarch. His virtues, however,

could not prevent the arrow of fate from piercing his happiness ; he had wantoned long in the sun-beams of felicity, and it was the will of Providence that he should now learn a lesson of adversity, that, in addition to all the other wisdom which the experience of a long life had given him, he might now be taught that happiness is at best but imperfect and inconstant, and that conscious rectitude of conduct and intention was no guarantee for its continuance.

For some months Sir Richard had marked, with the most distracting anxiety, the gradual progress of a disorder which threatened to deprive him of his beloved wife. He strove in vain to persuade himself that his apprehensions only existed in the susceptible fears of an affectionate heart, but this idea was soon removed by the conduct of Lady Whittington herself, who expressed to her devoted husband fears of a similar nature. His tenderness instantly took the alarm ; he could not behold his earthly happiness thus endangered without suffering sensations which mock the faint efforts of description. He endea-

voured to persuade her that there was no kind of danger in her situation, and endeavoured to impress on her mind the full confidence of a speedy and complete recovery. She smiled at his ardour, but shook her head mournfully, giving him to understand that her own opinion was formed, and that it was of a nature directly opposite to his hopes and wishes. Agitated beyond bearing, he was unable to offer that consolation, of which he himself stood most in need; but, giving way to his sorrows, he had nearly reduced himself to a situation equally alarming with that of his loved wife. The report of the physicians who had been immediately called in, tended, however, in some measure to alleviate his grief, since they flattered him with hopes that his lady was not in so dangerous a state as her fears had led her to imagine.

Notwithstanding the assurances of the most eminent of the faculty that Lady Whittington's illness would produce no fatal effects, but that change of air, coupled with a proper degree of attention, would bring about a recovery, she continued to grow more languid and dangerous every day. Sir Richard, with

an ardour of affection, which appeared rapidly to increase, as its object seemed to decay, carried her himself into the country, at a distance from London, and, near his own native place, where, with the utmost assiduity, he anticipated her wants, and watched over the progress of her disorder with an anxiety which could not be surpassed. At one moment he fastened greedily upon hope, when he saw more lustre than usual in her eyes, mistaking the beams of affectionate gratitude for the returning fire of health ; while at another, on seeing her more than usually languid and drooping, his apprehensions would take the alarm, and picture to his distempered imagination her dissolution already at hand. His hopes and his fears, however, were for the moment, equally unfounded. The progress of her disease was gradual, but undeviating, slowly undermining her constitution, and sapping her strength. She expressed her wish to return to London, and as Sir Richard perceived that no visible alteration had been effected by her country residence, he, with the consent of her medical attendants, conveyed her back to the scene of her nativity, and to the spot

rendered doubly dear to her by habit, and by its being the residence of her two sons.

For a few days this journey appeared to have restored in a considerable degree, her accustomed spirits, and conveyed to the hearts of those who loved her, the flattering hope of her ultimate recovery, but the presage was deceptive; it was merely a transient renovation, and the struggle of nature which produced it, only tended to hasten the advances of death. For a few weeks longer, she lingered, as if reluctant to part from those who had been so long and so deservedly dear to her; as if unwilling to leave a scene which had teemed with uninterrupted joy and prosperity to her. Sir Richard saw that every hope which he attempted to seize was now only illusory, but that he must resign her whom he adored above all earthly objects and considerations, at the call of that Providence which had ever been bountiful to him. His sons felt the severity of the approaching stroke with almost equal keenness, for the virtues and affection of their mother had rendered her inestimably dear to them; and, although the example and precepts

of their father had taught them both how to value and to practice the duties of piety, they found it no easy thing to suppress the disposition to repine at the decrees of heaven.

The hour at length arrived which terminated the earthly career of this amiable female, and called upon those who wept around her bed to summon to their aid those virtues which they had, on so many lesser occasions, practiced. She expired without a struggle in the arms of her distressed husband, and her last moments were cheered by the heaven-born consolations of a hope to which death alone could have given existence. A smile of celestial origin played round her features, and spoke to the feelings of those who loved her, when their ears could no longer catch the faint efforts of her tongue. Sir Richard, however, whose hopes of her recovery had existed with greater or less force even to the last moment of his wife's illness, no sooner perceived that they were indeed hopeless than he relapsed into a state of insensibility, from which he was only recovered to encounter a most severe fit of illness, which was not less the con-

sequence of his agitated feelings and the severity of his disappointment, than of the fatigues he had undergone, day after day, and night after night, and which no intreaties could ever prevail on him in a single instance to remit, in watching over her whose existence was as valuable to him as his own.

The illness of Sir Richard was long and severe, attended with continual relapses, and menacing consequences not less fatal than those which had involved the fate of his lady. His recovery was the more difficult, as he was nearly sixty years of age at the time of this melancholy event, and his constitution and spirits were scarcely able to support him under the tremendous shock. The continual solicitations of his friends, however, aided by the great physician time, effected what human physicians failed to perform, and, in about three months, after the death of his lady Sir Richard was once more in a state to receive the visits and congratulations of his numerous friends, on his return to life. But although his frame had survived the rough conflict, his spirits had suffered dissolution, for he considered himself, as

it were, a wanderer in the world, one who having transacted the business for which he came upon the earth, had no longer any right to remain and block up any part of the space which was crowded by so many younger persons, who had still every thing to do. In a very short time he yielded up his mercantile concerns to his sons, young men, who copying the industry and prudence of their father, preserved to themselves a considerable portion of that respect which their father had obtained and preserved. He himself, indeed, although he had nominally retired from the cares of business, still superintended the progress of his sons, and assisted them with his advice in every case which was intricate, or respecting the management of which they had any doubts.

By a gradual association with mankind once again, the impression made upon the mind of Sir Richard, by the death of his beloved wife, gradually became weaker and weaker, as the period to which recollection threw back his sorrowful thoughts grew more remote, until, at length, he felt restored to him a

very considerable portion of that relish for the world, and for public business, which he imagined had been for ever lost to him. The universal popularity which the young king Henry had obtained by his unexpected and complete reformation had rendered Sir Richard anxious to mix again with the courtly throng, that he might be an eye-witness to this surprising alteration in a youth whom he had learned to look upon with disgust because of his debauched and intemperate conduct, before he had been called to the crown. It was not necessary for such a man long to cherish a wish of this nature ungratified: his virtues were active agents in stirring up all men in his behalf, and inciting a general wish that he should once more enter upon the stage of public life. With minds so completely predisposed in his favour, it is not to be wondered at that the people should have expressed the most unbounded joy, on hearing that he had once more been called to take his share in the parliamentary discussions of this reign. His first re-appearance was welcomed with the most unaffected joy

by immense bodies of the citizens who had collected themselves together in order to pay him this simultaneous tribute of joy: it was the triumph of virtuous integrity, and a prouder day for Sir Richard he had never seen. On this occasion, he made a new progress in the esteem of the public, in consequence of the modest and respectful demeanour which he assumed; his feelings, however, had nearly overpowered him, for the scene so powerfully brought back to his recollection the image of his departed wife, that he was obliged to pause frequently to obtain support, and to hide the emotions, which, in spite of his utmost efforts, would rise from his heart and display themselves on his agitated countenance. The populace, unskilled in reading what passed in his breast, and attributing his disorder to the rapturous expression of public satisfaction which had greeted his appearance, renewed their plaudits with redoubled force and feeling, and rent the air with their loud and well-intended acclamations.

The reception which he experienced from Henry himself was not less gratify-

ing, for this monarch had not now to learn the value of Sir Richard's assistance, in consequence of his weight and influence in the city. The king was well acquainted with the pecuniary aids also with which this respectable man had frequently indulged his predecessors, and as he himself was of a very military and enterprizing disposition, and entertained views of conquest which it would, at this moment, have been premature to disclose, it is not very improbable that he might have secretly calculated upon the future utility of Sir Richard in the furtherance of his objects, and, consequently, his kindness to him might have proceeded from motives of a political nature. It would, however, neither tend to any further illustration of the character of Sir Richard, nor would it come within the scope of this memoir to enter into an investigation of these motives; it is sufficient to mark their emanations as far as regards our main objects.

Sir Richard was not long without the opportunity of witnessing those virtues called into action, which, before his coronation, had lain dormant in the bosom

of the youthful Henry, and his ancient antipathy to this prince was soon converted into a most ardent esteem, founded on the contemplation of those illustrious qualities which confer imperishable brilliance on a crown. He beheld him no longer the slave of base passions, uncontrolled by reason, giving way to the most vicious habits that could disgrace mankind; he saw him no longer mingling in the orgies of the drunkard, nor the brawls of the lawless; but he witnessed the effects of a revolution, complete and permanent as it was timely and sudden. Instead of revelling in sensual pleasures, the sovereign now cultivated the virtues of magnanimity, fidelity, clemency and affability, and very few days passed by in which he did not give splendid instances of the proficiency which he had made.

It was not long after his accession to the throne, that Henry cast a wistful eye to France, which was at that moment agitated by the most serious intestine commotions, and, consequently, presented to his aspiring eye, the prospect of an easy conquest. The dying injunctions of his

father that he would never suffer his people to be long in peace, agreed so completely with his own military inclination, that he determined to seize the earliest opportunity of reducing it to practice. The state of France seemed to hold out this opportunity, and he was not long in forming a resolution to avail himself of the occasion to invade that kingdom with all the energy in his power, and, if his subjects would well second his views, his sanguine imagination anticipated the speedy arrival of that day, when the English banner should float upon the walls of Paris. He knew, however, too well his own insufficiency to make an adequate exertion unless he could bring in his parliament, in the first instance, and, ultimately, the great body of his people to give their pecuniary aids to his views. He accordingly laid his designs before the house, which, dazzled by the promising aspect of affairs, readily sanctioned his schemes, and without hesitation, voted him the required support. Notwithstanding this assistance, however, the king found himself extremely deficient in the means of sending out such

an expedition as he projected; for the ordinary revenue of the crown was so inadequate to its disbursements, that he found himself considerably involved in debts, some of which it was necessary to discharge out of this new grant. In this dilemma, he applied to the city for loans to enable him to effect his purposes, and Sir Richard Whittington, according to the usage of his younger days, proved himself once more a valuable friend to a needy sovereign, for by his assistance and exertions, Henry was soon put in condition to bring his preparations for the invasion of France to a close. Stimulated by the encouragement he had received from his subjects, Henry pushed his arms into France, where the battle of Agincourt, although it was productive of no solid advantages, gained him so much more of the affection of the English, that his parliament immediately voted him new pecuniary grants to an extent without precedent in the annals of history.

In the year 1419, while Henry was pursuing his conquests in France, Sir Richard was, for the last time, called by his citizens to assume the civic sovereignty.

At this period, he was in his sixty-sixth year, and, consequently, the energies which had distinguished his mind while in the meridian of his days were now somewhat abated; yet, it is upon record, that he was even now the most vigilant and celebrated magistrate of his time. His judgment was unimpaired, and the integrity and impartiality of his disposition remained unaltered: he still displayed an equal readiness to conciliate the public applause and affection, by those acts which best deserved it. His heart was as sensible to the touch of compassion, and his hand was as ready to second the impulses of his benevolent feelings as at any former period of his existence. The periods in which Sir Richard filled this dignified office, were periods of great difficulty and perplexity. The barbarity of the popular manners, the factions of the nobles, the avarice or oppressions of the sovereigns, the unsettled state of Europe, and the universal vassalage in which the minds of men were involved, rendered every public situation fraught with a thousand toils and dangers, which gradually disappeared before the rising

beams of liberty and refinement. The church and the state were not only frequently disconnected to their interests, but sometimes were at complete variance with each other, and the city of London was considered as so great an acquisition to either party, that no exertions, promises, nor menaces were spared to gain it over to one particular party. When these circumstances are duly weighed, together with the great influence which Sir Richard possessed over his fellow-citizens, as well as over the resolution of its corporate members, and how much in consequence, he was assailed by those who wished to gain public sanction to any particular acts, some loose idea may be formed of the arduous duties he had to fulfil, and of the peculiar delicacy and unexampled difficulty of all the various circumstances under which it was his lot to be placed. That such a man indeed, should so well succeed in reconciling jarring opinions; and that he should deport himself with such singular propriety, as to retain through a long life that universal esteem and popularity which were accorded to him in his youth, affords an

ample proof of the superior integrity of his conduct, and the rare endowments of his mind. The instability of public favour is at this day proverbial; and it has been represented by men of our own age, as "a mushroom distinction," springing up with the "dews of the morning," and fading before the "cloud of evening;" it may, therefore, be easily supposed and believed that the versatility of popular opinion was ten times more notorious in those ages, when so many more causes existed to give fickleness to it. Whatever eel-like properties it may have possessed, however, Sir Richard contrived to grasp and retain the fleeting yet satisfactory honours even to the last. It was, during this mayoralty that Sir Richard built the chapel of Guildhall, for he was ever willing to perform some service, while he filled an official capacity, which might stand as a recompense for the honour conferred upon him, and to perpetuate the fame which was so plentifully yielded to him during his life. Being entirely freed from the shackles of his commercial concerns, he was now enabled to direct his undivided attention to the duties of

the magisterial office, and to concentrate all his abilities in his endeavours to promote the prosperity of the city. During his preceding mayoralties, indeed, Sir Richard appears to have been actuated by no views and motives but those of the purest nature and most liberal construction; selfishness, indolence, or negligence never constituted his character, in the smallest degree, nor were any of their concomitant faults discernible in his disposition. But in this last year of his public service to his fellow-citizens, as if conscious that he should no more ascend the civic chair, he seemed determined to surpass his former exertions, and to leave on the public mind such impressions as to his prudence, vigilance, and fidelity as should never be eradicated by the consuming hand of time. The government of the city of London was imperfect, and its power undefined and liable to continual abridgements. Sir Richard, however, had made considerable improvements, and defined the privileges which appertained to the city, and had procured, as a kind of recompence for the pecuniary aids he had granted, or procured to be granted,

to the various sovereigns in whose reigns he lived, a greater consolidation and establishment of the corporate powers. Equally poised between his loyalty to his king, and his attachment to the rights and prosperity of his fellow-citizens, he never obtained concessions of the one to the other, without procuring an equivalent; and, it was by the pursuance of this conduct, that he contrived so uniformly to retain the good opinions of both parties.

It was just at the close of this mayoralty that Henry returned from France, having by the famous treaty of Troye, laid the last stone to the degradation and subjugation of that country. He brought with him his new queen, the Princess Catherine of France, his marriage with whom had cemented the treaty. Elated by his brilliant successes, and delighted with the military qualities which he had displayed in this eventful campaign, his people received him with expressions of the most unbounded joy, and hailed his return with an enthusiasm which seemed to set the crown upon his victories. Amongst the rest of his fellow-subjects, the splendour and magnifi-

cence which marked the behaviour of Sir Richard Whittington, rendered him greatly conspicuous. With his usual liberality and loyalty, he invited the royal pair to a sumptuous entertainment at Guildhall, to which also were summoned the principal nobles of the court, and the chief merchants of the city; and from the brief record of this banquet which had been handed down to us, it appears to have surpassed infinitely in display of princely munificence any feast which subsequent ages have produced. It was the last public act of Sir Richard's life; and, conscious that his increasing years, and his waning energies would render him unfit for any future display of his munificence and loyalty in this open manner, he appears to have determined that his final efforts should be such as to command the admiration of his sovereign and his fellow-citizens. His ambition also to stand well in the estimation of the new queen, and to convince her that the expensive and energetic war in which her royal consort had been engaged, had not drained the resources of the country, or rendered her

financial circumstances gloomy, had probably no small share in his motives, when he resolved upon such an unequalled display of wealth. The patriotism of Sir Richard was not that shallow and inconstant principle which has subsequently brought the name into less repute ; it had nothing of selfishness connected with it, and this is sufficiently evidenced by his liberality in all those actions which tended either to promote the virtuous views of his sovereign, or the welfare of his country.

The banquet provided on this occasion was profusely magnificent ; all the powers of nature and art seemed to have been put in requisition to render it worthy of the conqueror of France. The abundant display of gold and jewels which decorated the tables, was so dazzling as to strike even the illustrious guests with wonder, that a subject should possess the means of surpassing everything which nobility or even royalty itself could perform. But while the eye and the appetite were thus suffered to regale luxuriously, the ear was gratified by the most dulcet harmonies that the refinement of

the age could produce, while the most odoriferous sweets captivated the smell. Henry felt himself completely rivetted with his astonishment, when he perceived that a consistency of splendour prevailed in every particular instance, since the fires were composed of cedar and the choicest woods mingled with mace, cloves, cinnamon, and a profusion of foreign spices. Turning to his queen, who was equally delighted, he exclaimed,—“Surely, never had prince such a subject; never was liberality such as this displayed by a subject to his sovereign;” and to this he added some just encomiums on the splendid manner in which everything was arranged, even to the fires which gratified the feeling and the smell at the same moment. The princess joined in the commendations of her royal lord, and remarked that the fragrance of the burning wood was a more delightful banquet than she had ever before tasted.

Sir Richard seized this opportunity to put the finishing stroke to his entertainment, and when the illustrious pair had praised the fire which had been prepared, he replied—“If your Majesty will allow

the humblest and most devoted of your subjects, I will create a blaze which will be infinitely more gratifying to your Majesty's feelings." As he said this, he produced various bonds which the king had given for loans advanced to him, to enable him effectually to prosecute his military achievements, consisting of a bond for 10,000 marks, lent by the company of mercers, of which Sir Richard was a member; one for 12,500 advanced by the chamber of the city; and various others, to different amounts, for sums appropriated to his wants from the funds of several other public companies—"these, with several others lent for the payment of your soldiers in France, have I called in and discharged to the amount of £60,000 sterling. Can your Majesty desire to see such another sight?" Electrified at such a display of loyalty and generosity, the king and his nobles gazed on each other with silent astonishment; but when the first moment of surprise had passed, they declared that no recompense which the monarch had it in his power to bestow, could sufficiently reward the splendour of this single action.

The object of Sir Richard, however, was not the attainment of any additional honours; and modestly, yet steadily, did he refuse all the proffered favours of the grateful monarch, declaring that the weight of years prevented him from interfering any further with public life, and that his sole remaining ambition and intention were to retire from the world, and in the bosom of peace to end his few remaining days, having, to the best of his abilities, conscientiously discharged his duty to his king and his country.

From this period, Sir Richard, according to the determination he had publicly expressed, retired from active life, being nearly seventy years of age, and having, from the most humble commencement, amassed wealth to an almost unparalleled extent in the annals of the commercial world. Ever retaining a most grateful sense of the goodness of Providence in so bountifully rewarding his industrious exertions, he considered it a duty incumbent on him in his later years, to devote a portion of that wealth which he had obtained, to the alleviation of individual misery and oppression, in a still

more extensive degree than he had hitherto done. He determined, therefore, to make this great object of lessening human misfortune, and promoting human happiness, the sole study of his remaining life; and in so doing he trusted to conciliate the favour of heaven, and lay the sure foundation of a reward more gratifying and permanent than any which it was in the power of earthly kings to confer. Full of this determination, he retired to his house in Hart Street, near Mark Lane, and there he commenced his great career of benevolence.* Like a sovereign he held his court daily; but, greater than a sovereign, he held it for the advantage only of those whom affliction had rendered outcasts from society, who found no friends amongst mankind, who were desolate and despised, the victims of want and oppression, and who could not fix their

* "In Hart Street, four doors from Mark Lane, up a gate way, are the remains of the residence of the celebrated Whittington. In the old leases it is described by the name of Whittington's palace, and the appearance of it, especially externally, leaves no doubt of the act."—LAMBERT'S HISTORY OF LONDON,

eye on any one spot on earth and say, "this is my home."

In this honourable employment, dispensing felicity to others, and deriving it himself from the exercise of his sublime duties, Sir Richard continued to maintain, in private life, that high and inestimable character which had been so universally bestowed upon his public actions. The death of Henry the Fifth, soon after his retirement, and the consequences resulting from it, induced him not, in the smallest degree, to advance again on the stage of life.

Sir Richard's benevolence, however, was bounded and brief. During the lapse of a few years only was he permitted to give scope to the shining energies of his mind, before the arrow of death was levelled at him. The approach of dissolution, however, brought with it no terrors: resigned to the will of Providence, he bowed his head to the irresistible fiat, and sunk into the grave, full of hope and joy. His last moments were serenely happy, consistent with the tenor of his life; and he might with truth have addressed his sons, who received his

parting breath, in the animated language which our immortal Addison subsequently adopted—"See in what peace a christian can die." His death, however, although a source of bliss to himself, was unaffectedly and universally lamented.

The remains of this virtuous character were deposited, with becoming respect, in the church of St. Michael, Royal, which he himself had founded, and an appropriate monument was erected by his executors over his grave. In the reign of Edward the VI, however, the rector of the parish, being a man of much greater avarice than wisdom or piety, expressed his conviction that there were great riches entrusted with the body of Sir Richard; and he accordingly caused the monument to be broken open, and the coffin to be taken up. Finding himself disappointed, however, in his expectations, he plundered the relics of their leaden covering, and caused them to be re-buried. But the corpse was doomed once more to be disturbed; for, in the reign of queen Mary, the body was again taken up by the parishioners to be incased in lead, as before, and to rebuild

the monument over it, which had been destroyed by the avaricious priest. When these duties had been fulfilled, the corpse was suffered to remain unmolested by mortal hands; but the great fire of London, which committed such wide devastation, not even sparing places of religious worship, destroyed the church itself, and laid the monument with it in a heap of ruins.

Record, however, has handed down to us the original epitaph as it was cut on the monument of Sir Richard, by order of his executors, and, exclusive of its connection with the subject of these pages, it may be subjoined as a curious specimen of the poetry of an age which was, comparatively with the present, so entirely involved in the darkness of superstition and ignorance.

EPITAPH.

Beneath this stone lies Whittington,
 Sir Richard, rightly named;
 Who three times Lord Mayor served in London,
 In which he ne'er was blamed.
 He rose from indigence to wealth,
 By industry and that;
 For lo! he scorned to gain by stealth,
 What he got by a cat.

Let none who reads this verse despair
 Of Providence's ways :
 Who trust in him, he'll make his care,
 And prosper all their days.
 Then sing a requiem to departed merit,
 And rest in peace till death demands his spirit.

The moral to be deduced from this biographical sketch is evident. Industry and integrity constitute the path to fame ; for however splendid may be an individual's talents, indolence will stifle them, and prevent them from rising to eminence, while indefatigable perseverance, on the other hand, will frequently supersede the necessity of talent, and by its own power will place its possessor on the pinnacle of distinction. Sir Richard Whittington possessed no splendours of intellectual gifts, but his virtues rendered him famous, and his fame will endure so long as virtue shall continue to be esteemed.

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— **LIFE OF SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON.** The
(*Milner & Sowerby*), 1865. Scarce

12mo. Original morocco grain red cloth blocked heavily in 1
labels, and name on half-title page, else Very Good. Engr. Fts. a

